Special grants for construction of good rural roads

1591. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether Government propose to provide special grants to the States to construct good rural roads with new technology at the easiest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRr A. NARENDRA): (a) The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a Central intervention in the rural roads sector of the States. 50% of the cess of High Speed Diesel, levied under the Central Road Fund Act, 2000 is allocated to the States on grant basis each year for construction of rural roads under the PMGSY primarily for providing new connectivity to eligible unconnected habitations.

Good quality all-weather roads are constructed under PMGSY in accordance with design and standards prescribed in the Rural Roads Manual published by the Indian Roads Congress as a special publication (IRC SP; 20:2002).

Funds sought by Himachal Pradesh for drinking water projects

f1592. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme of his Ministry, the Government of Himachal Pradesh had sent a proposal on 31st March, 2002 for granting an amount of Rs. 207.60 crores for the construction of various drinking water supply projects for the uncovered population of 12 districts in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard and the reasons for its lying pending so far; and

(c) by when, a final decision would be taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA) : (a) to (c) Water Supply is a State subject. Government of India supports the efforts of the States by releasing funds under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme as per the following criterion for inter-State allocation:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Weightage for	Percentage(%)
(a) Rural population	40
(b) States under DDP, DPAP, HADP & special category hill States in terms of rural areas	35
(c) Not covered/partially covered villages (at 2:1 ratio)	15
(d) Quality affected villages	10
TOTAU	100

Individual rural water supply schemes are planned and implemented by the State Governments themselves and there is no need for taking up such proposals with the Government of India.

Winding up of EAS

1593. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) which was continuing till the end of Ninth Five Year Plan, has been given up from Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) The Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) was launched with effect from 25th September, 2001 by merging scheme of the Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY). The purpose was to have a larger wage employment programme for rural areas with the objective to provide additional wage employment and food security alongside creation of durable community, social and economic infrastructure in rural areas.

Flow of rural credit to the rural population

1594. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal of **a** doubling over the next three years of the flow of rural credit to the hard-pressed bulk of the rural population;